

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~The pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene of claim 1~~ A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic nitride wherein the polyethylene glycol is covalently bonded to the fullerene through a malonyl moiety.

Claim 3 (Original): ~~The pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene of claim 1~~ A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic nitride wherein the one or more polyethylene glycol moiety is covalently bonded to the fullerene through an ethyl malonyl moiety.

Claim 4 (Original): ~~The pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene of claim 1~~ A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic nitride wherein one or more pairs of polyethylene glycol moieties are covalently bonded to the fullerene through a malonyl moiety.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): An endohedral metallofullerene of the formula:  $A_{3-n}X_nN@C_m(-R(-[O-CH_2CH_2-]_k-Q)_j)(-OH)_h$ ; where A and X are metal atoms,  $n=0-3$ ; m is an even number between about 60 and about 200;  $1 < h < m-2$ ;  $i \geq 1$ ;  $j=1$  or  $2$ ; and  $k > 1$  wherein R is a malonyl group or an ethyl-malonyl group and Q is o-methyl, a protecting group, or a functional group selected from among an antigen, an antibody fragment, a membrane anchoring sequence, a polynucleotide, a receptor ligand, and biotin.

Claim 8 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7 wherein  $j=1$  and R is an ethyl malonyl group.

Claim 9 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7 wherein Q is a methoxy group.

Claim 10 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7 wherein  $j=2$  and R is a malonyl group.

Claim 11 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 7.

Claim 12 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 11

Claim 13 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 16 or greater.

Claim 14 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 40 or greater.

Claim 15 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein, A and/or X are rare earth element and/or a group IIIB element.

Claim 16 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein A and/or X are chosen from among the group consisting of Scandium, Yttrium, Lanthanum, Gadolinium, Holmium, Erbium, Thulium, and Ytterbium.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).